



# UTAH's WATERSHED RESTORATION INITIATIVE



Tyler Thompson - Watershed Program Director  
[watershed.utah.gov](http://watershed.utah.gov)

# What is WRI?

- State led partnership driven effort to improve high priority watersheds in Utah
- Ecosystem values WRI focuses on improving
  - Watershed health and biological diversity
  - Water quality and yield
  - Opportunities for sustainable uses of natural resources





# WRI FY22

## Accomplishments

- 120 Completed projects
- 59 Different funding partners
- 164,064 Acres completed
  - 29,916 acres fire rehabilitation
  - 137,148 acres proactive restoration
- 119 Miles of stream and riparian areas treated
- 666,756 Pounds of seed applied
- 70,701 Acres of new class III cultural resource inventory
  - 1,116 new sites located/avoided





## Total Acres

- 137,148
- 26,916

## BLM Acres

- 42,847
- 9,020

## State Acres

- 30,609
- 2,467

## USFS Acres

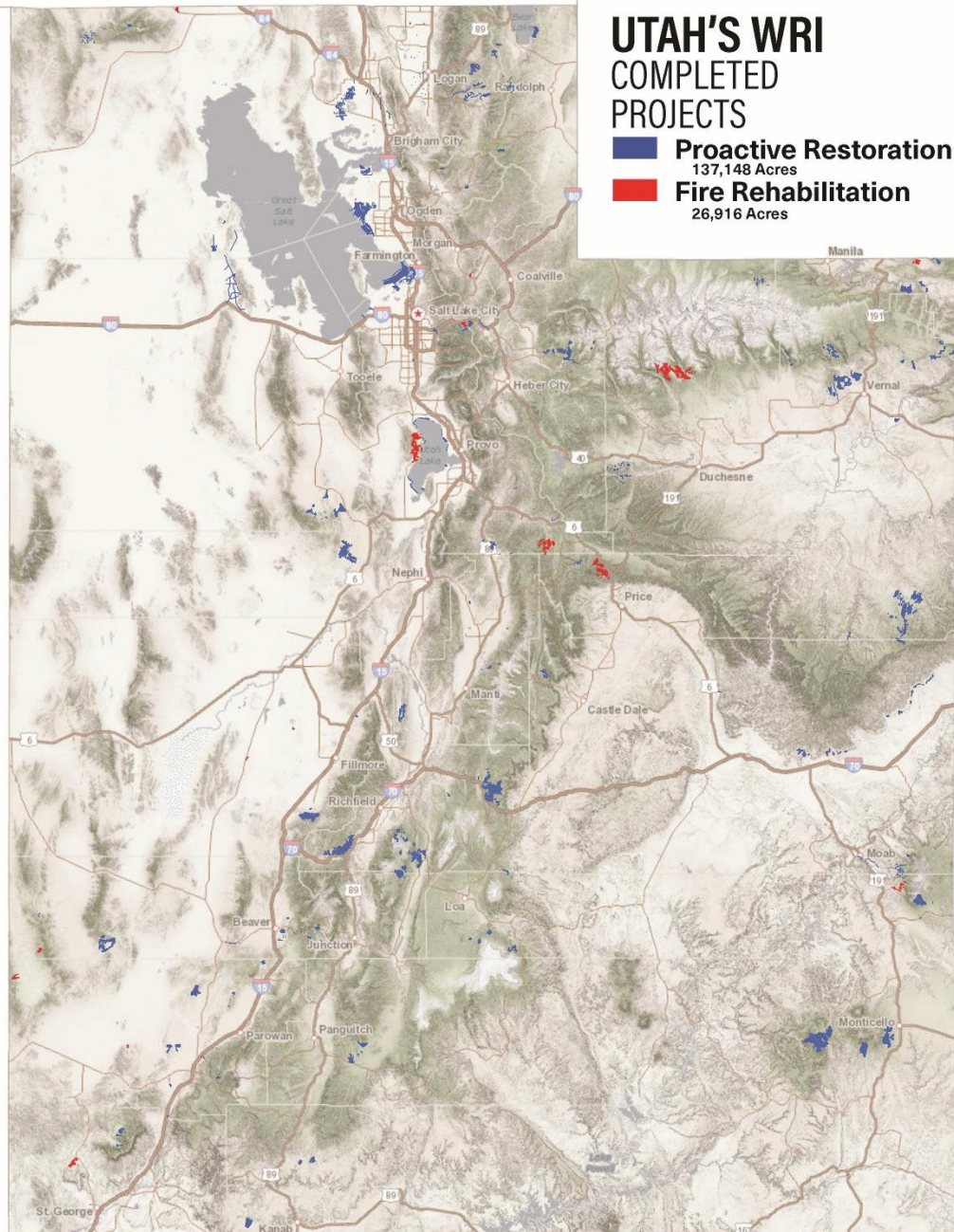
- 51,530
- 9,948

## Private Acres

- 6,906
- 5,481

## Other Acres

- 5,256
- 0



### COMPLETED ACRES BY COUNTY

Beaver - 6,491  
Box Elder - 5,670  
Cache - 4,522  
Carbon - 3,760

Daggett - 4,587  
Davis - 9,623  
Duchesne - 9,411  
Emery - 883

Garfield - 2,167  
Grand - 4,700  
Iron - 5,184  
Juab - 3,907

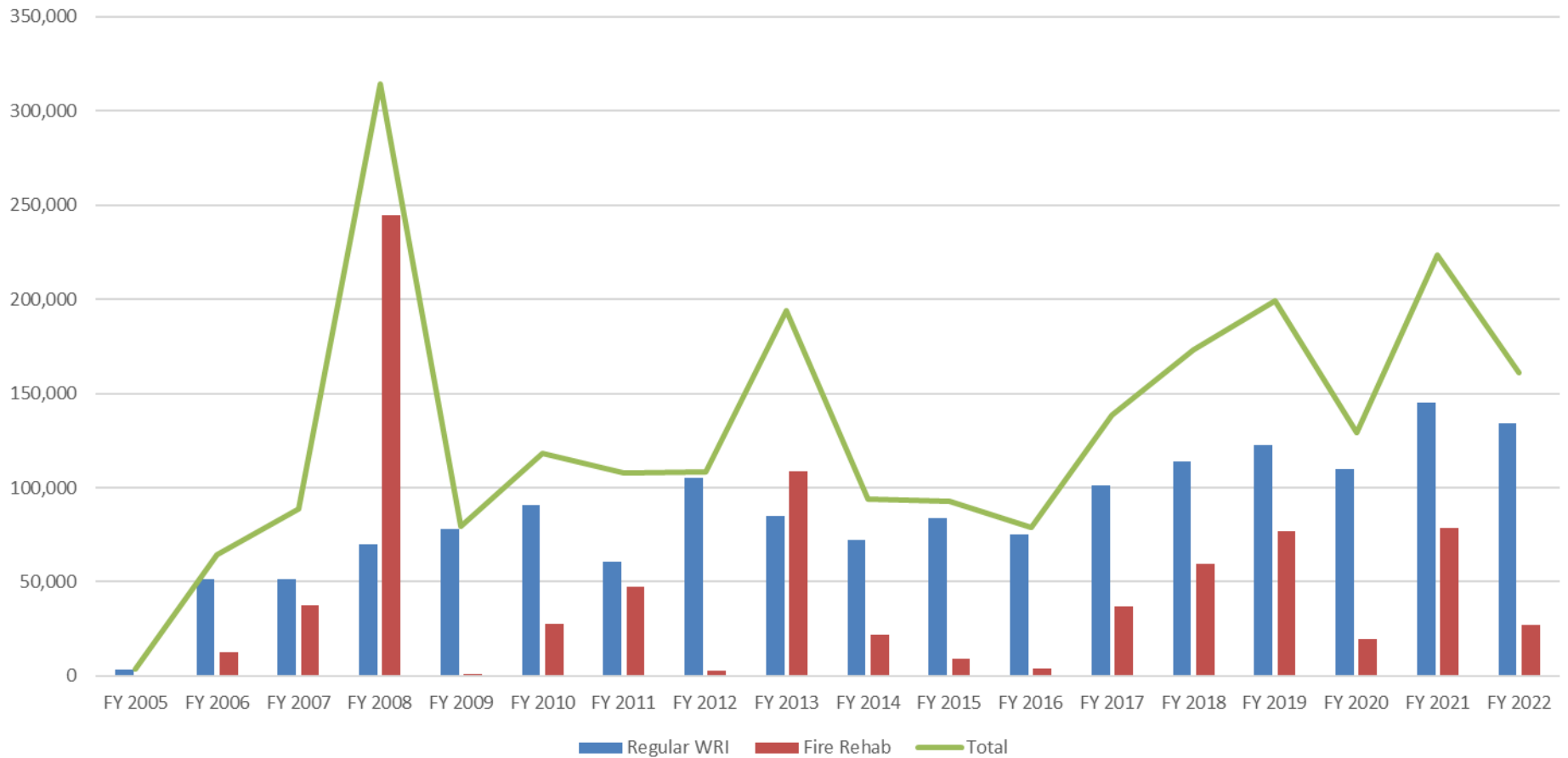
Kane - 3,218  
Millard - 3,552  
Morgan - 190  
Piute - 944

Rich - 2,445  
Salt Lake - 3,049  
San Juan - 3,778  
Sanpete - 2,556

Sevier - 24,526  
Summit - 5,800  
Tooele - 5,482  
Uintah - 21,249

Utah - 11,215  
Wasatch - 79  
Washington - 2,548  
Wayne - 2,396  
Weber - 6,098

# WRI Annual Acres Treated





# Performance Measures

- Acres Treated (excluding fire)

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Target	100,000	100,000	120,000	120,000
Actual	110,041	145,272	137,148	

- Stream Miles Improved

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Target	175	175	175	175
Actual	166	223	119	

- State Funding Leverage

	FY 2020	FY2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Target	3	3	3	3
Actual	2.2	2.9	2.0	



# WRI Bill - HB 131

2022 General Session

- Passed House and Senate with zero “No” votes
- Officially creates WRI within DNR Admin.
- Sets the policies and objectives of WRI
- Describes how WRI will be administered/funded
- Requires annual report to NRAE Interim committee

Enrolled Copy

H.B. 131

**WATERSHED RESTORATION INITIATIVE**

2022 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Gay Lynn Bennion**

Senate Sponsor: Evan J. Vickers

**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill creates the Watershed Restoration Initiative within the Department of Natural Resources.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- defines terms;
- creates the Watershed Restoration Initiative within the Department of Natural Resources;
- sets the policies and objectives of the initiative;
- describes how the initiative will be administered and funded;
- requires the initiative to submit an annual report to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee; and
- creates the Watershed Restoration Expendable Special Revenue Fund.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

ENACTS:

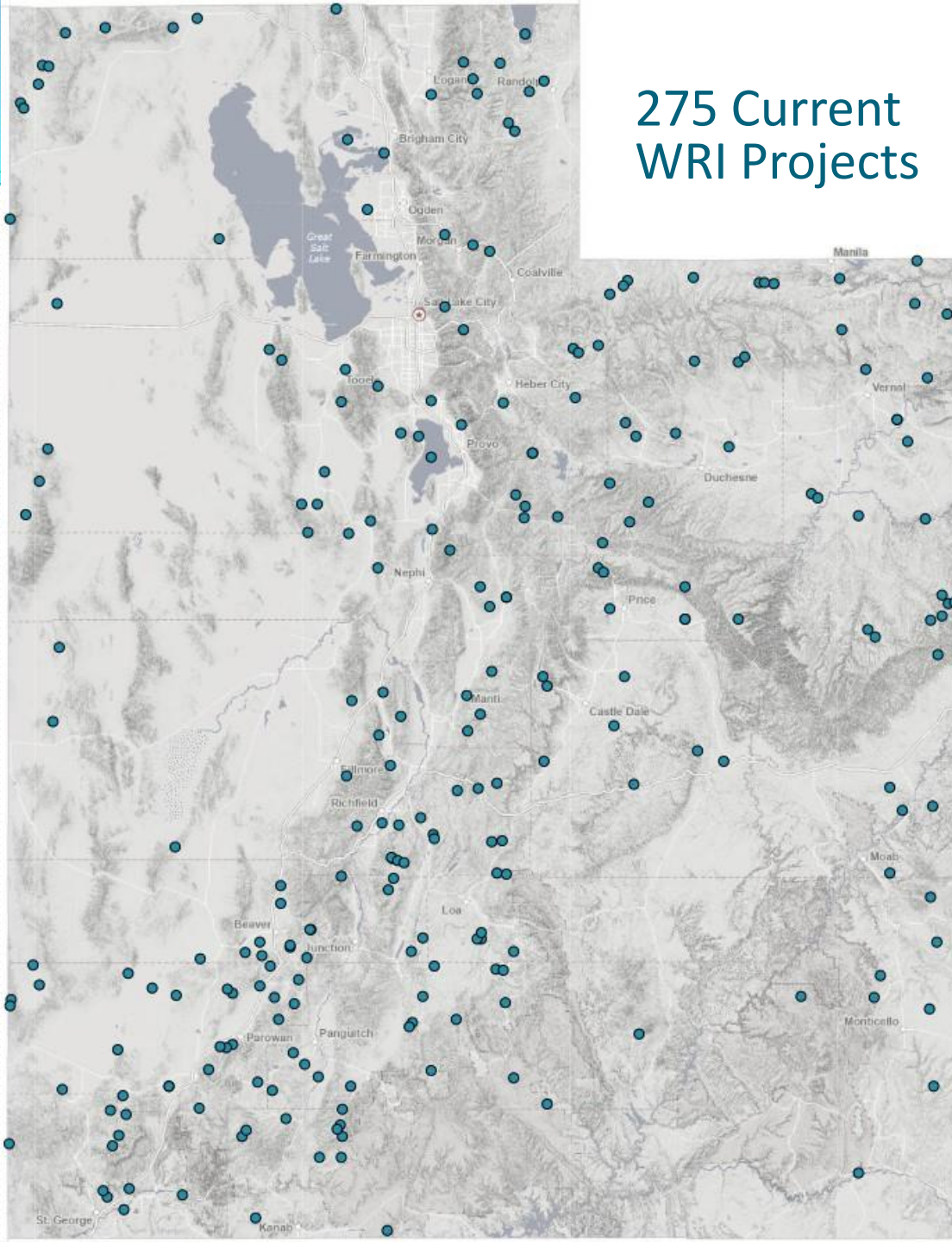
**79-2-601**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

**79-2-602**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

**79-2-603**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



# 275 Current WRI Projects

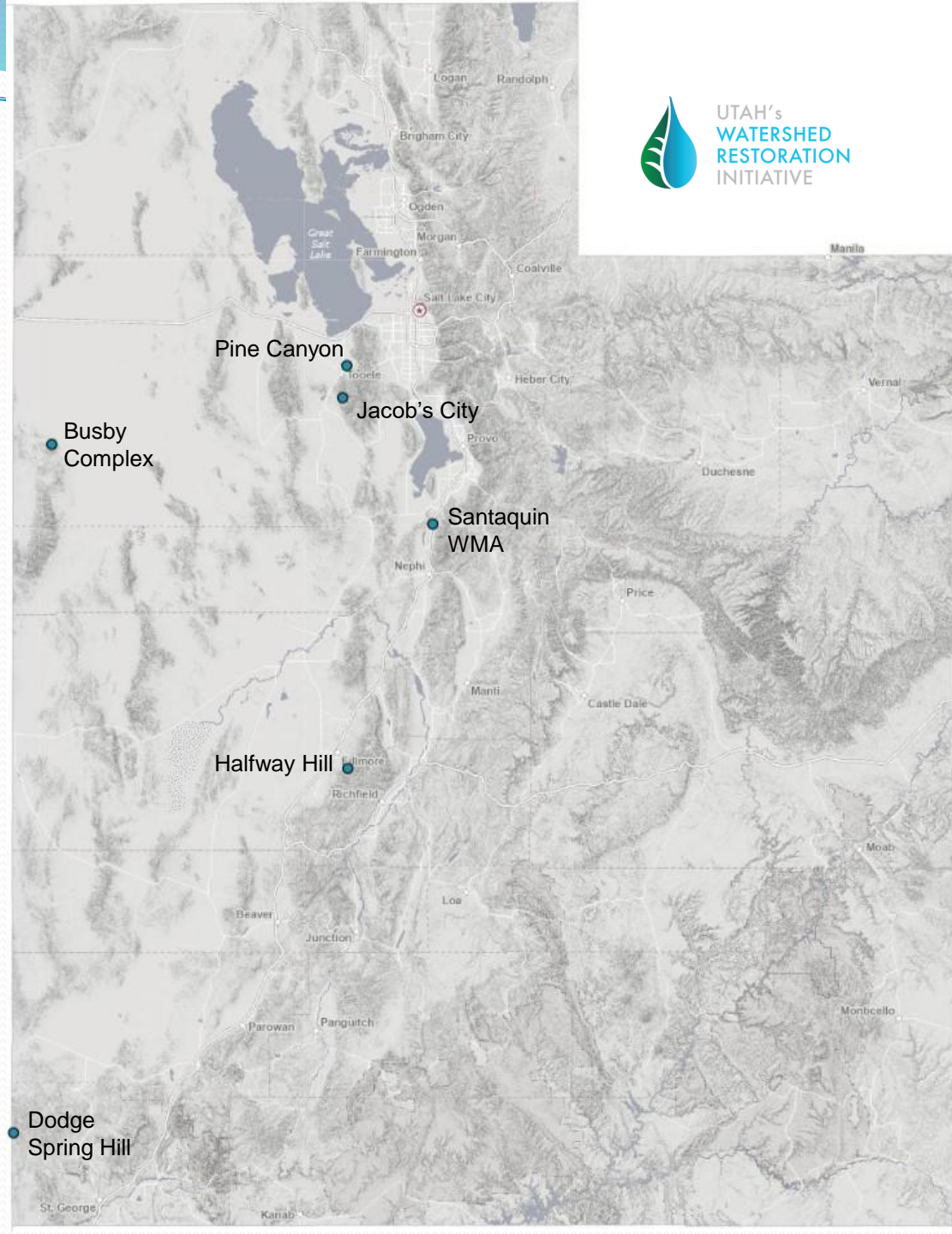




# FY23 WRI Led Fire Rehabilitation

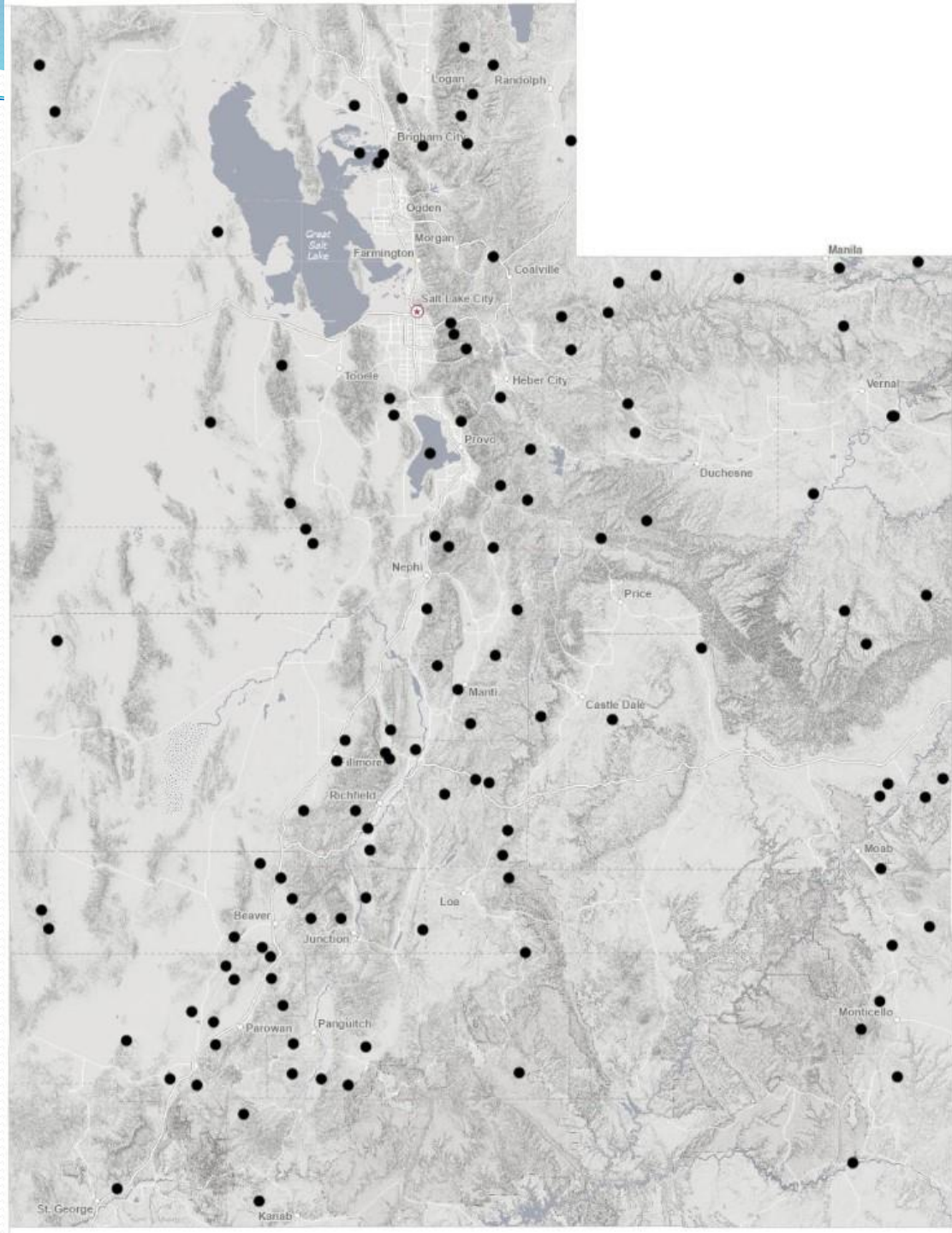
## 6 New Fires - 8,431 Acres

Fire	Acres
Halfway Hill	5,278
Dodge Spring	1,922
Jacob's City	653
Busby Complex	460
Santaquin WMA	80
Pine Canyon	38



# WRI Proposed Projects – FY24

- 125 FY24 WRI funding proposals
  - 300,000 Acres
  - \$72 Million funding requests
  - Shovel ready projects
  - Costs to complete these projects continue to rise

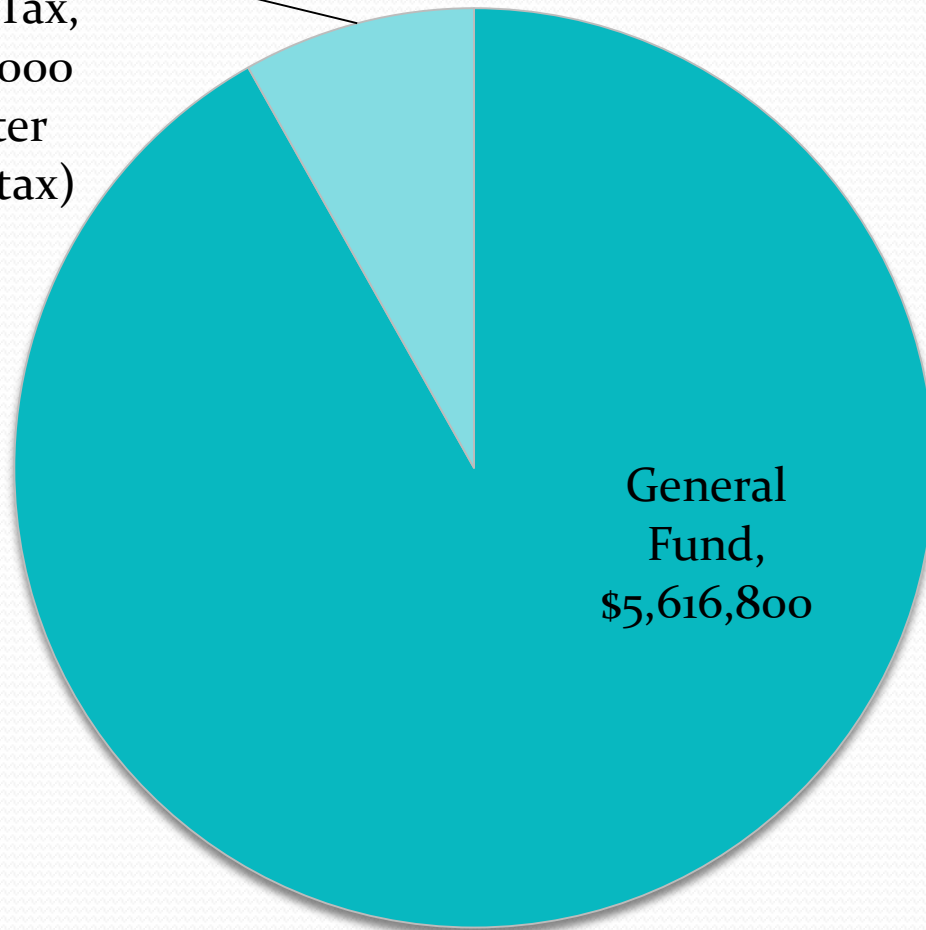




# Watershed Program Funding

\$6,116,800

Designated  
Sales Tax,  
\$500,000  
(water  
sales tax)



- 97%

Funds go towards  
WRI projects –  
administered  
through DWR

- 3%

Held in DNR for  
single FTE – overall  
Watershed program  
administration

# Thank You



**Tyler Thompson**  
**tylerthompson@utah.gov**  
**801.510.7062**



UTAH's  
WATERSHED  
RESTORATION  
INITIATIVE